/274 cont./

Offensive War and Weapons

683 When a tribe was preparing to attack another, if it foresaw
701 that it would last longer than usual, and the cacique judged that
705 more preparations were required, in his position as supreme chief or captain general he would commission subalterns called Queremba, experts, to inspect all the armament available, and if the report of these chiefs was not satisfactory, a general order was given to make up and repair all the deficiencies as quickly as possible.

411 The bows and arrows were made in the public plaza or out-
824 side each house: the wood which was to serve for bows was
[183] different from that for arrows. War bows measured /275/ a meter and a half more or less, and to shoot one they used a twisted cord made of pygmy-deer hide, which was both light and strong. The wood that they use even today for hunting bows is called Igüirapitiragua.

The arrows are made of different kinds of wood, but the most common are Ovei, guayacanillo /a kind of guaicum/, Yaguasú, tola, and Igüirane, smelly wood. This last is very poisonous, and the tribe that uses it must be a very bad enemy of his opponent, because whoever is wounded with these arrows will recover only with difficulty, and the wound is a continual suppuration of illness, which slowly consumes him, almost without any hope of his being able to be helped and to enjoy life once more with his companions.

Every arrow ends in a point, and on both sides it has its edges the opposite way so that when it enters the flesh it is difficult to remove, and one who does not know how to remove it can produce a greater wound than the one the arrow made when it entered.
[183] The arrow is inserted into a little piece of hollow cane, one
[239] meter long, where it is securely attached with string made of toborochi bark, and the string is covered with a little bit of wax (1).

1. At the end of the cane, with the same string and wax, many attach a feather of a falcon or of a carancho, not for decoration, but so that the shot may be more accurate. The feathers of these birds are more resistant than others.